



EXHIBIT 10
DATE 2-16-2011
HB 439

**Montana Automobile
Dealers Association**

February 16, 2011

House Appropriations Committee

Montana Legislature

Helena, MT 59601

Committee Members:

The Montana Automobile Dealers Association would like to go on record in support of funding for a new and upgraded auto technician building at Montana State University – Northern in Havre. I believe this is an amendment to HB439.

A continuing problem for Montana's 120 new-vehicle dealerships has been the shortage of trained technicians. Currently these dealership employees are earning an average annual payroll of \$40,000. This building will help recruit and keep Montana students in Montana to get a four-year bachelor's degree. It has become a priority of the regents as it should be for the State. Many of these graduates would stay in Montana and continue to be vital not only to the dealerships but also their local communities.

We urge your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Marilyn J. Olsen

Executive Vice President